

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A downhole deployment valve (DDV) system, comprising:  
a tubular string within a wellbore, the tubular string having a valve member for selectively obstructing a flow path through a bore of the tubular string; and  
an object stopping assembly for stopping an object falling toward the valve member prior to the object contacting the valve member.
2. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprises at least one stop member selectively movable to at least partially obstruct the bore.
3. (Withdrawn) The DDV system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprises a diverter disposed above the valve member, the diverter movable between an open position and a diverting position.
4. (Withdrawn) The DDV system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprises an upward opening flapper member.
5. (Withdrawn) The DDV system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprises an acceleration actuated brake on the object.
6. (Withdrawn) The DDV system of claim 5, wherein the brake comprises a friction drag block in contact with a surrounding tubular to provide a drag force, the drag block biased from setting an anchor of the brake until reaching a predetermined drag force.
7. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, further comprising an actuator member that actuates both the valve member and the assembly.

8. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, further comprising a control line that substantially simultaneously supplies fluid pressure to an actuator for the valve member and an actuator for the assembly.
9. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, further comprising a shock attenuating material above the valve member.
10. – 18. (Cancelled)
19. (Original) A downhole deployment valve (DDV) system, comprising:  
a first DDV disposed in a tubular string, the first DDV having a valve member capable of selectively controlling a pressure below the valve member; and  
a second DDV disposed in the tubular string, the second DDV having a redundant valve member capable of selectively controlling a pressure below the redundant valve member.
20. (Original) The DDV system of claim 19, wherein the first and second DDV actuate in parallel by separate actuators that operate the valve members substantially simultaneously.
21. (Withdrawn) The DDV system of claim 19, further comprising a diverter above the valve member.
22. (Original) The DDV system of claim 19, further comprising a barrier above the valve member.
23. (Original) The DDV system of claim 19, further comprising a shock attenuating material above the valve member.

Please add the following new claims:

24. (New) A downhole deployment valve (DDV) system, comprising:  
a valve member for selectively obstructing a flow path through a bore of a tubular string; and  
a barrier member disposed at a location above the valve member, the barrier member configured to impede an object falling toward the valve member prior to the object contacting the valve member.
25. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the barrier member is movable between an extended position and a retracted position.
26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the barrier member is movable in response to movement of a mandrel having a cone member.
27. (New) A method of using a downhole deployment valve (DDV) in a wellbore, comprising:  
positioning an object stopping assembly at a location above the downhole deployment valve;  
dropping an object in the wellbore; and  
slowing the rate of decent of the object as it approaches the downhole deployment valve by using the object stopping assembly.
28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the valve member is closed and the object stopping assembly is actuated substantially simultaneously.
29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the valve member is closed and the object stopping assembly is actuated by fluid pressure supplied to a control line common to the valve member and the object stopping assembly.
30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the object stopping assembly is a barrier.